

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2001



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unemployment near seasonal norm for November

Annual average wages increase, but remain below state wages (see table page 2)

Unemployment in Northwest Wisconsin increased in November, but the unemployment rate this year is only one-tenth of percentage point higher than one year ago. According to estimates released by the Department of Workforce Development the November unemployment rate for the ten-county region of Northwest Wisconsin was 5.1 percent, up from 3.8 percent in October, but only slightly higher than the 5.0 percent rate of last November.

The regional unemployment rate is higher than the unadjusted rate in the State of Wisconsin of 4.3 percent, but lower than the national rate of 5.5 percent. Seasonally adjusted the state rate was 4.7 percent while the national rate was 5.7 percent in November.

Each of the ten counties reported a higher rate in November, as did 68 of the state's 72 counties. The highest rate in the region, and third highest in the state, occurred in Iron County with 7.6 percent unemployed. The 4.1 percent unemployment rate in Price County, was the lowest in the region but 45th highest in the state.

The number of residents who were unemployed in Northwest Wisconsin increased to 4,700 in November. The increase from October to November is very typical for the season and the number of unemployed this year is only 100 higher than last November. Even though the current unemployment rate is higher than last year it is the fifth lowest November unemployment rate on record.

Unemployment in Northwest Wisconsin is very seasonal and claims for unemployment compensation increase significantly during the last weeks of November. During the

week that ended November 17th, the week used to estimate unemployment nationwide, there were 2,256 claims filed for unemployment compensation benefits this year compared with 1,904 during the same week last year.

The number of residents filing claims increased to over 4,000 during the week that included Thanksgiving, but has since declined to 3,665 claims during the December survey week. That is higher than in November and is a good predictor of the December unemployment rate. It is only slightly higher than one year ago, however.

Most of those filing claims for unemployment compensation were laid off from area manufacturers and many of those claims were filed before November. Production employment during the month changed very little, except in Price County where workers were busy producing holiday garlands and wreaths. Much of the increase in unemployment claims came from an influx of construction and tourism-related workers.

Retail trade and service employment declined by nearly 800 jobs in November. The counties reporting the greatest reductions were Douglas, Sawyer, Ashland and Bayfield. All ten counties reported a reduction in construction workers but because of more projects and the warm weather employment remained higher than last November.

The total number of jobs in the area is higher than one year ago. There were 74,000 jobs in the northwest area in November, 650 more than one year ago. All industries, except manufacturing, reported an increase in jobs.

Labor Force Estimates - not seasonally adjusted

November Data	Wisconsin	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Civilian Labor Force*	3,049,800	7,700	7,400	7,300	23,500	3,500	6,700	7,200	9,900	10,800	8,300
Employed	2,919,500	7,200	6,900	6,900	22,400	3,300	6,500	6,800	9,400	10,400	7,900
Unemployed	130,300	500	500	400	1,100	300	300	300	500	500	400
Unemployment rate(%)	4.3%	6.8%	6.2%	5.3%	4.5%	7.6%	4.1%	4.7%	4.9%	4.5%	5.1%
Change from previous month											
Civilian Labor Force*	600	-100	0	-100	100	100	-100	-100	-100	-100	0
Employed	-11,300	-200	-200	-200	0	0	0	-100	-300	-300	-100
Unemployed	11,800	100	200	100	100	200	100	0	200	200	100
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4%	2.0%	2.6%	1.2%	0.4%	3.4%	0.5%	0.2%	1.7%	1.8%	1.1%
Change from one year ago											
Civilian Labor Force*	55,300	-100	-100	100	200	200	-400	0	400	100	100
Employed	12,400	-100	-100	0	0	200	0	0	400	200	100
Unemployed	42,900	0	0	100	300	100	-200	-100	0	0	0
Unemployment rate(%)	1.4%	0.2%	0.1%	1.5%	0.9%	2.5%	-3.2%	-0.8%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.3%

* Includes participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Calculations based on unrounded numbers

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

November Data	Wisconsin	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Total jobs, all industries*	2,854,450	8,490	3,890	4,760	18,850	2,570	6,500	6,210	6,880	9,270	6,370
Construction & Mining	131,040	380	260	300	1,130	340	310	250	340	410	310
Manufacturing	579,260	1,610	250	1,030	1,240	560	2,460	2,490	850	3,480	1,240
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	136,040	220	250	140	2,400	60	130	240	180	460	290
Wholesale Trade	137,320	190	50	50	1,130	70	220	120	120	460	140
Retail Trade	512,030	1,680	710	930	3,780	590	1,010	840	1,610	1,550	1,420
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	152,670	280	150	100	500	30	200	130	310	360	220
Services	783,830	2,280	740	750	5,270	410	1,150	760	1,510	1,480	1,300
Government	422,260	1,850	1,480	1,480	3,420	500	1,020	1,390	1,980	1,060	1,440

Change from previous month

Total jobs, all industries*	-5,310	-190	-150	-80	-280	60	50	30	-200	-90	-50
Construction & Mining	-5,420	-20	-20	-10	-60	-40	10	-20	-20	-80	-10
Manufacturing	-5,710	-30	10	0	-10	70	110	60	-10	10	30
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	-1,220	0	-10	0	10	0	0	-10	0	0	0
Wholesale Trade	-560	10	0	0	-20	0	-10	0	0	10	0
Retail Trade	8,230	-50	-90	-30	40	0	0	10	-100	20	-40
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	130	0	0	-30	-10	0	10	0	10	0	0
Services	-4,410	-80	-60	-20	-210	0	-30	-20	-90	0	-50
Government	3,650	-10	20	10	-30	20	-20	10	10	-60	10

Change from one year ago

Total jobs, all industries*	-16,440	-370	150	-20	390	180	-50	-10	230	120	30
Construction & Mining	-3,460	-70	10	20	30	10	60	20	0	20	20
Manufacturing	-35,180	-60	10	-30	-110	100	-80	30	-20	0	-50
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	120	0	10	0	240	0	0	-10	10	20	-20
Wholesale Trade	-1,480	10	0	-10	80	10	20	0	-10	10	10
Retail Trade	1,520	50	0	30	40	10	20	10	40	30	30
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	3,060	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	0
Services	12,020	-20	0	-90	150	-10	-20	-90	60	20	40
Government	6,960	-280	110	80	-30	70	-50	30	130	10	10

** Includes employment with employers located in area. Current month estimates are preliminary. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

2000 Average Annual Wage

	Wisc	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Goods Producing Industries											
Construction	\$37,764	\$32,560	\$21,612	\$21,720	\$35,712	\$26,510	\$24,902	\$23,923	\$23,272	\$31,177	\$22,060
Mining	\$42,099	*	--	*	*	*	--	*	*	*	--
Manufacturing	\$39,015	\$28,716	\$25,493	\$30,585	\$35,762	\$21,905	\$33,665	\$26,221	\$31,937	\$29,912	\$24,698
Durable Goods	\$39,816	\$30,325	\$26,752	\$32,103	\$35,833	\$24,666	\$31,940	\$25,629	\$31,971	\$28,991	\$25,138
Nondrbl.Goods	\$37,764	\$16,549	\$19,300	\$25,484	\$35,633	\$14,787	\$36,799	\$29,064	\$32,007	\$31,653	\$23,948
Service Producing Industries											
Agric, Forestry & Fishing	\$21,956	\$30,630	\$10,090	\$22,491	\$13,585	\$11,659	\$17,762	\$18,357	\$14,495	\$22,206	\$16,369
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	\$35,678	\$28,940	\$27,041	\$31,233	\$39,646	\$14,872	\$28,707	\$31,117	\$22,041	\$29,453	\$16,123
Wholesale Trade	\$39,539	\$27,096	\$21,154	\$41,057	\$34,636	\$30,228	\$22,221	\$23,190	\$38,116	\$26,411	\$24,453
Retail Trade	\$15,850	\$12,782	\$10,563	\$11,433	\$13,252	\$11,405	\$12,083	\$12,454	\$13,941	\$11,305	\$13,200
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	\$39,554	\$22,238	\$23,977	\$18,972	\$25,563	\$18,870	\$18,019	\$21,805	\$25,963	\$24,029	\$27,774
Services	\$27,107	\$24,649	\$15,024	\$20,821	\$15,875	\$16,461	\$15,778	\$17,275	\$20,089	\$18,123	\$19,311
Government	\$31,030	\$27,134	\$23,999	\$23,405	\$30,455	\$27,424	\$24,964	\$23,743	\$24,797	\$25,955	\$28,442
All Industries:2000	\$30,687	\$24,192	\$18,807	\$22,243	\$24,472	\$19,407	\$24,499	\$22,081	\$21,508	\$24,368	\$21,410
1999 Annual Avg.	\$29,609	\$23,267	\$17,907	\$21,068	\$24,522	\$18,835	\$24,230	\$21,581	\$20,624	\$23,998	\$20,947
Percent change	3.6%	4.0%	5.0%	5.6%	-0.2%	3.0%	1.1%	2.3%	4.3%	1.5%	2.2%

Source: DILHR, UC Covered Employment & Wages, Report 209, November 2001

Annual average wages increased in all but Douglas County in 2000, although some industries in each county reported a loss in wages. The lower wages in Douglas County occurred when the number of jobs increased faster than the increase in payroll. This is probably the result of an increase

in part time workers.

Overall, wages in the region increased 2.2 percent compared with a 3.6 percent increase statewide. Increases in annual average wages in six counties were lower than the state increase.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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